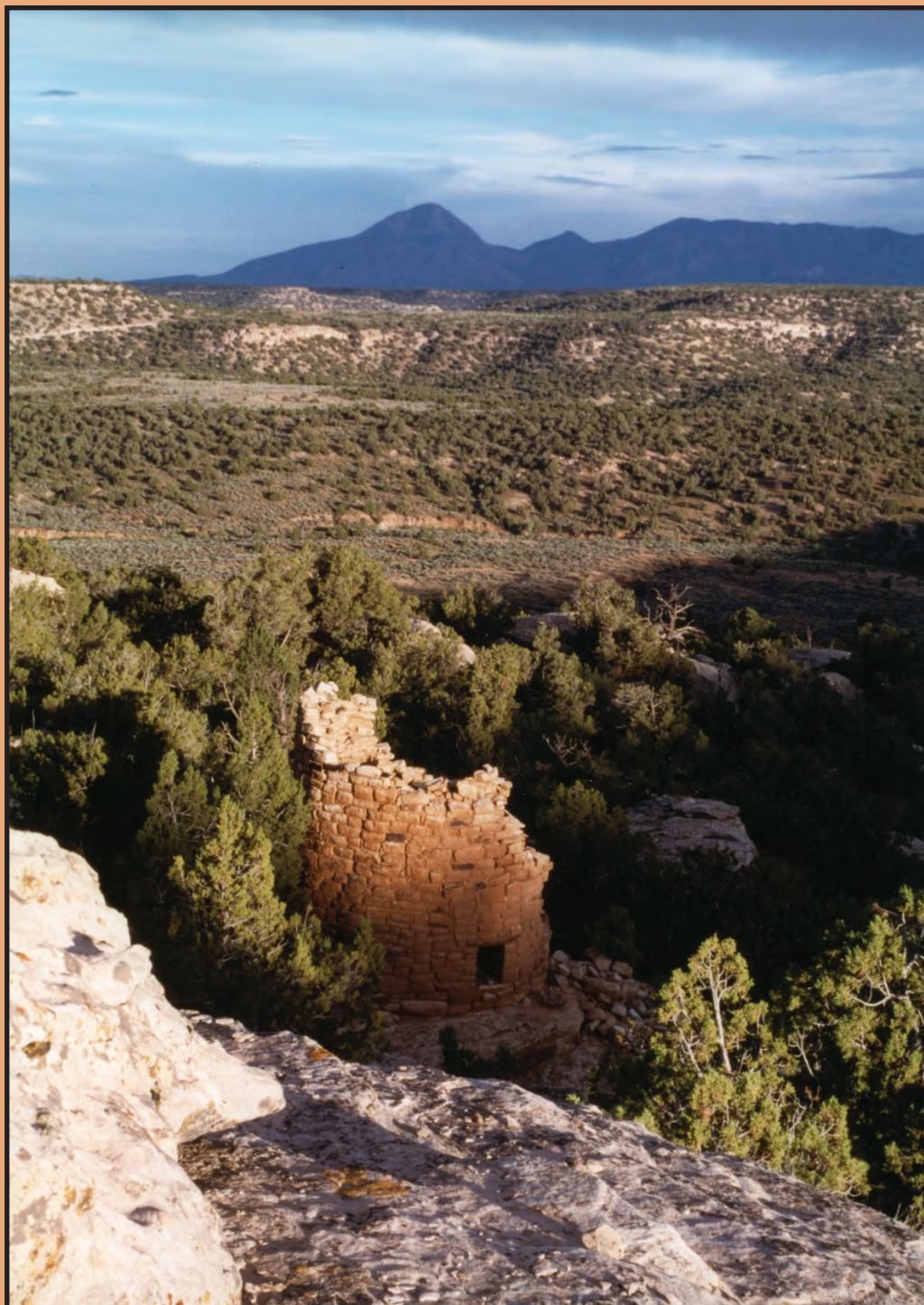
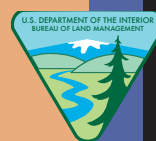


Canyons of the Ancients National Monument



Volume I
Draft Resource Management Plan
& Draft Environmental Impact Statement
September 2007



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COLORADO STATE OFFICE
2850 YOUNGFIELD STREET
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80215-7093**

In Reply Refer To:
9101 (CO-931)

AUG 23 2007

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan (DRMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The alternatives described in this document have been designed to guide future management and resolve land management issues identified during the planning process. The analyses of environmental consequences from implementing each of the alternatives are also included in this document.

We invite you to comment on the content of this DRMP/DEIS. The 90-day public comment period will begin the day the DRMP/DEIS Notice of Availability is published in the *Federal Register*. Comments received on the DRMP/DEIS will be fully evaluated and considered in the development of the proposed RMP and Final EIS. Through your participation in this effort, we can move toward a common goal of improved management of public lands administered by the Canyons of the Ancient National Monument.

Open house meetings will be held at a time and date to be determined and will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings. The purpose of these meetings is to give the public an opportunity to discuss and comment on the DRMP/DEIS.

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

Website: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/canm/>

Fax: 970-882-7035

Mail: Monument Manager
Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
27501 Highway 184
Dolores, Colorado 81323

Comments are most useful when they address one or more of the following:

- Errors in the analysis;
- New scientific information that would have a bearing on the analysis;
- Misinformation that could affect the outcome of the analysis;

- Requests for clarification; and
- A substantive new alternative whose mix of allocations differs from those under any of the existing alternatives.

Comments must include your complete name and address. This information is requested in the event we need clarification of messages that are not legible or we have questions about your comments. Incomplete comments or comments from unidentified sources will not be considered or included as part of the official comment record.

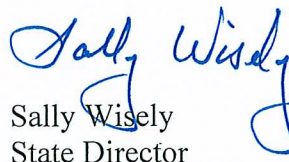
Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Anasazi Heritage Center (27501 Hwy 184, Dolores, Colorado 81323), and will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Please retain this copy of the DRMP/DEIS for future reference, as you may wish to refer to it when you review the final document. To have your name added to the Canyons of the Ancients Resource Management Plan mailing list or to view and download the DRMP/DEIS in portable document format (PDF), go to the project website: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/canm/>. Copies of the DRMP/DEIS are also available during regular business hours at the following locations:

Anasazi Heritage Center, 27501 Highway 184, Dolores, Colorado 81323
 Dolores Public Lands Center, 29211 Highway 184, Dolores, Colorado 81323
 San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, Colorado 81301
 Dolores Public Library, 420 Railroad Ave., Dolores, Colorado 81323
 Cortez Public Library, 202 North Park, Cortez, Colorado 81321
 Mancos Public Library, 111 North Main, Mancos, Colorado 81328
 Durango Public Library, 1188 East 2nd Ave, Durango, Colorado 81301

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,


 Sally Wisely
 State Director

2 Enclosures:

- 1- Canyon of the Ancients National Monument DRMP
- 2- Canyon of the Ancients National Monument DREIS

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Resource Management Plan and
Environmental Impact Statement

DRAFT
September 2007

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency of the Department of the Interior, to manage BLM-administered lands and resources in a manner that best serves the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield taking into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources.

Volume I

DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Proposed Action Location: Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Dolores and Montezuma Counties, Colorado

Lead Agency:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
27501 Hwy 184
Dolores, CO 81323
970-882-5600

Responsible Official:

LouAnn Jacobson, Monument Manager
Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
27501 Hwy 184
Dolores, CO 81323
970-882-5600

Contact:

Heather Musclow, Monument Planner
Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
27501 Hwy 184
Dolores, CO 81323
970-882-5632

September 2007

ABSTRACT: This Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP/DEIS) addresses future management options for approximately 165,000 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (the Monument). The Monument is located in the Four Corners region of southwestern Colorado (approximately 50 miles west of Durango, 10 miles west of Cortez, and 12 miles west of Mesa Verde National Park). Information provided by the public, Federal, State and local agencies and organizations; and BLM personnel has been used to develop and analyze the five alternatives considered in this document. Alternative I is the No Action Alternative and represents the continuation of current management direction. Alternative II maximizes cultural resource protection by avoiding impacts to cultural resource communities, sites, and isolated finds. Alternative III emphasizes the protection of cultural resource communities and sites and natural resource values while providing for resource use and development. Alternative IV emphasizes the protection of cultural resource communities and sites and natural resource values while encouraging resource use and development. Alternative V, the Preferred Alternative, was developed using a combination of management actions from Alternatives I through IV. This alternative emphasizes cultural resource values (including tribal values), protection of cultural resource communities and sites and protection and enhancement of natural resources, while providing for resource use and development.